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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: B0801.70290US00
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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| Applicant: | Scott T. Weiss et al. |
| Serial No.: | 10/681818 |
| Confirmation No.: | 7475 |
| Filed: | October 8, 2003 |
| For: | DIAGNOSTIC ASSAY AND RELATED PRODUCTS |
| Examiner: | S.T. Kapushoc |
| Art Unit: | 1634 |

**Certificate of Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: September 5, 2006

Nicole Millette Hawes

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

## INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page **2** of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.